

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 5, 2013

**Senate Joint Resolution**

**No. 7**

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**Introduced by Senator Lieu**  
**(Coauthor: Senator Pavley)**  
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Muratsuchi and Ting)*

March 13, 2013

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 7—Relative to the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 7, as amended, Lieu. Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013.

This measure would urge the Congress to enact and the President to sign the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1     WHEREAS, Residents across the County of Los Angeles suffer  
2     intrusive and disruptive low-flying helicopter traffic above their  
3     neighborhoods; and  
4     WHEREAS, The County of Los Angeles is home to a unique  
5     and very large concentration of scenic, historic, entertainment, and  
6     transportation venues, including movie studios, movie stars' homes,  
7     outdoor entertainment facilities, the coastline, Griffith Park, the  
8     Hollywood sign, and many others, that generate extensive  
9     helicopter tours engaged in sightseeing activity; and  
10    WHEREAS, The County of Los Angeles has a high  
11    concentration of media helicopters engaged in monitoring traffic  
12    conditions, following car chases, and filming celebrity events,  
13    which often involve hovering for extended periods of time; and

1 WHEREAS, The County of Los Angeles is home to the world's  
2 leading civil helicopter manufacturer, which conducts extensive  
3 helicopter flight testing in the region; and

4 WHEREAS, The unique terrain of canyons and valleys in the  
5 County of Los Angeles often amplifies noise from helicopters in  
6 otherwise quiet residential areas; and

7 WHEREAS, Helicopter noise in the County of Los Angeles  
8 interrupts daily life for many residents by interfering with the  
9 ability to hear conversations, the television, the radio, or the  
10 telephone, and disrupting sleep cycles; and

11 WHEREAS, Despite multiple efforts from several community  
12 and homeowner organizations in the County of Los Angeles to  
13 address these disturbances, helicopter traffic in the County of Los  
14 Angeles is not currently regulated by the Federal Aviation  
15 Administration (FAA) or any other agency; and

16 WHEREAS, The FAA requires a specific minimum flying  
17 altitude for fixed-wing aircraft, but it does not require a specific  
18 minimum flying altitude for helicopters; and

19 WHEREAS, The ~~absence~~ *lack* of effective regulations for  
20 commercial helicopter operations in the County of Los Angeles  
21 negatively impacts the safety and quality of life of the county's  
22 residents; and

23 WHEREAS, The State of California is preempted by federal  
24 law from adopting altitude, flight path, and other necessary  
25 regulations to mitigate the impacts of commercial helicopters; and

26 WHEREAS, There is a lack of clarity as to the rulemaking  
27 authority of the FAA; and

28 WHEREAS, Two companion measures in Congress, Senate Bill  
29 No. 208 and House of Representatives Bill No. 456, known as the  
30 Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013,  
31 would require the Administrator of the FAA to prescribe  
32 regulations for helicopter operations in the County of Los Angeles  
33 that are needed to address residents' concerns over safety, noise,  
34 and other associated impacts; and

35 WHEREAS, The following local government entities in the  
36 County of Los Angeles have recently voted to support the proposed  
37 federal legislation or its predecessor, the Los Angeles Residential  
38 Helicopter Noise Relief Act of ~~2012~~ *2011*: the County of Los  
39 Angeles, the City of Los Angeles, the City of Hermosa Beach, the  
40 City of Lomita, the City of Palos Verdes Estates, the City of

1 Rancho Palos Verdes, the City of Redondo Beach, the City of  
2 Rolling Hills Estates, and the City of West Hollywood; now,  
3 therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*  
5 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature supports the Los Angeles  
6 Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013 (S. 208 and H.R.  
7 456) and respectfully memorializes the Congress of the United  
8 States to promptly pass and President Barack Obama to sign that  
9 legislation; and be it further

10 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
11 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
12 States, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Speaker of the  
13 House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative  
14 from California in the Congress of the United States.

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